SOCIAL JUSTICE AND WOMEN SLUM DWELLERS – A STUDY WITH REFERENCE TO LATUR CITY, MAHARASHTRA

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Introduction:

The call of Indian Constitution enunciated by its preamble is to secure to the people of India "Justice-Social, Economic and Political; Liberty of Thought, Expression, Belief, Faith and Worship; and Equality of Status and of Opportunity." The Constitution has clearly demarcated with adequate checks and balances, role of the three branches of the Government (a) The legislature is to pass the laws, (b) The executive is to administer it, and lastly (c) The judiciary has the power to review their validity and enforce the laws touching upon and regulating activity in the social, economic, educational and health spheres, etc. indeed all activities touching the lives of the citizens, in particular the weaker and vulnerable sections or women slums dwellers.

The notion of social justice underpins social philosophical thoughts from Aristotle's "Ethics" onwards to the modern versions offered by Rawls (1969 and 1971), Rescher (1966), Runciman (1966), etc. But there is no generally accepted simple definition of social justice to all. According to Harvey (1973), "Social justice is a particular application of just principles to conflicts which arise out of the necessity for social cooperation seeking individual advancement. The principle of social justice starts with the skeleton concept of "a just distribution justly arrived at." The process of social justice is thus related with the inner workings of the judicial system, because the judiciary has to meet new social needs. It would indeed be a net injustice to devise a socially just

distribution of something defined in an unjust manner. In urban areas of the country like India, where the urban population is increasing so rapidly that the resulting problems, especially in the big metropolises and cities, are reaching alarming proportion. The prevalence of social justice is very high among the affluent sections of the society. It is also necessary where the violation of constitutional or legal rights of a large number of the people including the poor, ignorant or socially or economically disadvantaged takes place. Further, due to legislative insecurity and lack of appropriate action taken by the administration or authorities in time, people suffer from social justice in a variety ways and at the same time the people of all ladders, i.e., from the higher to the bottom socio-economic levels cannot fight equally for having social justice, when such an occasion arises. Here arises the need to protect the people from having social justice and therefore, the role of judiciary is highly crucial for delivering justice to the deprived.

Social Justice as provided in the Indian Constitution of Part-III of Fundamental Rights are as follows:

A. Right to Equality:

1. Article 14: Equality before Law
2. Article 15: Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.
3. Article 16: Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment
4. Article 17: Abolition of untouchability 72
5. Article 18: Abolition of titles, other than military or academic distinction. **B. Right to Freedom:**
6. Article 19: Protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech, etc.
7. Article 21: Protection of life and personal liberty

C. Right to Education:

8. Article 21A: Right to education (Right against Exploitation)

D. Right against Exploitation

9. Article 23: Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour

10. Article 24: Prohibition of employment of children in factories, etc.

E. Cultural and Educational Rights

11. Article 29: Protection of interests of minorities

12 Article 30: Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions

F. Right to Constitutional Remedies

13. Article 32: Remedies for enforcement of rights conferred

14. Article 33: Power of Parliament to modify the rights conferred

15. Article 34: Restriction on rights conferred

16. Article 35: Legislation to give effect to the provisions

Slums in Perspective:

Slum constitute the most important and persistent problem of life. In every major city in the world whether developed or developing- One-fifth to one-half of the population live in slums or slum-like condition today. The rapid growth of big cities (from metropolis via megapolis or parcitopolis) has been a matter of great concern to many socially conscious people. Outstanding thinkers are perturbed over the unnatural cancerous out growths of slums in cities, described by some as ‘deserts of stone’, ‘pathopolis’ or ‘brief outline of hell’ with all thus attendant evils like ‘utter loneliness of individuals, suicide, vice, prostitution, crime and gangsterism’. It is well known that wealthy countries like the USA, West Germany, England and others are still plagued with harmless and dark ghettos, despite several attempts to clear slums and renew cities.

Concept and Definition of Slums:

Social scientific define ‘slum in many ways’. In India slum areas have been defined by the government under section 3 of the slum areas (improvement and clearance) Act, 1956 as areas where (a) Buildings are in any respect unfit for human habitation or (b) buildings by reason of dilapidation, over crowing, faulty arrangements and design of such buildings, narrowness or faulty arrangement of streets, lack of ventilation light, sanitation facilities or any combination of these factors are detrimental to safety, health or morals of the inhabitants (The slum Areas Act, 1956).

Objectives of the Study:

1. To identify the prevailing scene of social justice with respect to civic amenities, homelessness, health services, transport-communication, land occupancies, education, occupation, income-expenditure, child labour, gender related issue, etc. from slum dwellers of Latur city.
2. To examine prevailing nature and extent of variations in access to social justice in different localities and among different social groups specially women in slums.
3. To examine the origin of slums and the profile of women slum dwellers in terms of place of origin, religion, caste etc.
4. To explore the socio-economic and patterns of working conditions of the women slum dwellers.
5. To know the variation in social status of the women in slums on the basis of their social background.

Hypothesis of the Study:

1. The problem of obsolete and chronic poverty is closely associated with the women slum dwellers.
2. In the slums the men are disturbed from manhood, women are dishonored and children are poisoned at its root level.
3. There will be a low level of socialization pattern in the slums which having negative impact on the children.
4. Low social status of the women in slums are directly related to their social background.

Research Methodology:

Universe of the study:

The major 10 slums from the Latur city will be selected as the universe of the study.

Sampling Method:

The simple random sampling method and lottery sample will be used to select the 200 respondents from the slum areas. That means from each slums 20 respondents will be selected as sample.

Primary and Secondary Data:

The primary data will be collected through Interview technique with the structured interview schedule will be adopted, data will also collected by observation technique.

The secondary data will be collected from books, journals, articles, records (official and non-official), internet, newspapers, magazines etc.

Tools of data collection:

Interview schedule, Home visit, Group discussion, Discussion with experts, Observation etc. will be the tools of this study.

Tentative Chapterization:

Chapter I	**–**	Introduction
Chapter II	**–**	Review of Literature
Chapter III	**–**	A) Research Methodology
		B) Brief profile of Latur City
Chapter IV	**–**	Socio-Economic Profile of Respondents (Based on Empirical Data)
Chapter V	**–**	Socialization and Practices related to Marriage and Family in Slums
Chapter VI	**–**	Findings, Conclusions and Suggestions.
Appendix A	**–**	Interview Schedule
Appendix B	**–**	Bibliography
Appendix C	**–**	Photographs

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